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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish  
the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. SOTO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000  
and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task  
Force, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019”.

6       (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7       this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION  
ACT OF 2000

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.

Sec. 203. Membership.

Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.

Sec. 205. Working groups.

Sec. 206. Definitions.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF  
AUTHORITIES

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

1 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF**  
2 **CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
3 **ACT OF 2000**

4 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-**  
5 **TION ACT OF 2000.**

6 The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
7 6401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 202 through  
8 210 and inserting the following:

9 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

10 “The purposes of this title are—

11 “(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condi-  
12 tion of United States coral reef ecosystems chal-  
13 lenged by natural and human-accelerated changes,  
14 including increasing ocean temperatures, ocean  
15 acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, and  
16 invasive species;

1           “(2) to promote the science-based management  
2           and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-  
3           efit local communities and the Nation, including  
4           through improved integration and cooperation  
5           among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdic-  
6           tions with coral reef equities;

7           “(3) to develop sound scientific information on  
8           the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing  
9           and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the  
10          efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-  
11          gies to restore such ecosystems;

12          “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs  
13          by supporting consensus-driven State and commu-  
14          nity-based coral reef management, including con-  
15          servation and restoration projects that empower  
16          local communities, small businesses, and nongovern-  
17          mental organizations;

18          “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-  
19          sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and  
20          strengthen State and community-based management  
21          programs and conservation and restoration projects;

22          “(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-  
23          lecting and allocating monetary donations from the  
24          private sector to be used for coral reef conservation  
25          and restoration projects;

1 “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-  
2 based response to emergencies that imminently  
3 threaten coral reefs, such as coral disease outbreaks,  
4 invasive species, coral bleaching, natural disasters,  
5 vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other exi-  
6 gent circumstances; and

7 “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar  
8 international efforts to preserve, sustain, and restore  
9 coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of United  
10 States allies and trading partners.

11 **“SEC. 203. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
13 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act  
14 of 2019, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate  
15 congressional committees and publish in the Federal Reg-  
16 ister a national coral reef resilience strategy.

17 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by para-  
18 graph (1) shall include—

19 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives and an  
20 implementation plan for supporting—

21 “(A) the coral reef conservation program  
22 under section 221; and

23 “(B) future Federal coral reef manage-  
24 ment and restoration activities under section  
25 205;

1 “(2) national maps of—

2 “(A) the current range and extent of coral  
3 reef ecosystems;

4 “(B) the historic range and extent of coral  
5 reef ecosystems; and

6 “(C) prime habitat for restoring reef eco-  
7 system structure and functions to benefit coast-  
8 al communities and living marine resources;  
9 and

10 “(3) a discussion of—

11 “(A) continuing and emerging threats to  
12 the resilience of United States coral reef eco-  
13 systems;

14 “(B) national and regional gaps in coral  
15 reef ecosystem research, monitoring, and as-  
16 sessments;

17 “(C) the status of efforts to improve man-  
18 agement, integration, and cooperation among  
19 Federal, State, Tribal, and locally managed ju-  
20 risdictions with coral reef equities; and

21 “(D) efforts to manage and disseminate  
22 critical information, such as publicly accessible  
23 research, reports, datasets, and maps, including  
24 through interjurisdictional data sharing.

1       “(c) REVISIONS.—The Administrator shall periodi-  
2 cally, but not less frequently than every 20 years, review  
3 and revise the strategy required by subsection (a) as ap-  
4 propriate.

5       “(d) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the strategy  
6 required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult  
7 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force.

8       “(e) USE OF EXISTING PLAN.—At the discretion of  
9 the Administrator, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
10 Administration’s 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program  
11 Strategic Plan may be considered to fulfill the require-  
12 ments of this section until January 1, 2040.

13 **“SEC. 204. FEDERAL CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

14       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
15 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator  
16 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
17 and publish in the Federal Register a compilation of coral  
18 reef action plans for each individual management unit of  
19 a Federal agency specified in section 205(c) with jurisdic-  
20 tion over coral reef ecosystems and established for at least  
21 5 years—

22               “(1) developed and submitted to the Adminis-  
23 trator by the Secretary of the Interior and the As-  
24 sistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service,  
25 as applicable; and

1 “(2) that meet the requirements of subsection  
2 (b).

3 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEF  
4 ACTION PLANS.—A coral reef action plan of a manage-  
5 ment unit described in subsection (a) meets the require-  
6 ments of this subsection if the plan includes—

7 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives to be  
8 accomplished during the 5-year period following de-  
9 velopment of the plan and consistent with the na-  
10 tional coral reef resilience strategy in effect as devel-  
11 oped in accordance with section 203; and

12 “(2) a discussion of—

13 “(A) a review of such unit’s efforts and  
14 success in managing and restoring coral reef  
15 ecosystems under the previous coral reef action  
16 plan in effect as developed under this section,  
17 if applicable, and how such review informs the  
18 newly effective action plan;

19 “(B) short- and mid-term coral reef con-  
20 servation and restoration objectives for such  
21 unit’s coral reef ecosystems;

22 “(C) an assessment of whether such unit  
23 has experienced more than a 10 percent loss of  
24 living coral cover during the 10-year period pre-  
25 ceding the date of the plan or retains less than

1           50 percent of its historic living coral cover as  
2           of that date;

3           “(D) an updated adaptive management  
4           framework to inform research, monitoring, and  
5           assessment needs;

6           “(E) any coral reef emergency plans cer-  
7           tified under section 216 for coral reef eco-  
8           systems within such unit, and a review of any  
9           circumstance that led to the activation of such  
10          plans within such unit, including an evaluation  
11          of the emergency responses;

12          “(F) tools and strategies to address pollu-  
13          tion and water quality impacts to coral reef eco-  
14          systems arising wholly from within the adminis-  
15          trative boundaries of such unit;

16          “(G) the status of efforts to improve coral  
17          reef ecosystem management integration and co-  
18          operation among neighboring Federal, State,  
19          Tribal, or locally managed jurisdictions, includ-  
20          ing identification of existing research and moni-  
21          toring activities that can be leveraged for coral  
22          reef status and trends assessments within such  
23          unit;

24          “(H) a list of all coral reefs or ecologically  
25          significant units of coral reefs identified by



1 coral reef stewardship partnerships certified  
2 under section 210(e) or subject to stewardship  
3 activities governed by coral reef stewardship  
4 plans certified under section 212 during the  
5 preceding 5-year period within such unit;

6 “(I) coral reef-related public outreach and  
7 education efforts;

8 “(J) an accounting of annual unit expendi-  
9 tures on coral reef management and restoration  
10 during the 5-year period preceding the date of  
11 the plan; and

12 “(K) estimated budgetary and other re-  
13 source considerations necessary to carry out  
14 such plan.

15 “(c) ADOPTION OF STEWARDSHIP AND EMERGENCY  
16 PLANS.—In developing a coral reef action plan under this  
17 section, a management unit described in subsection (a)  
18 may adopt any coral reef stewardship plans certified under  
19 section 212 and coral reef emergency plans certified under  
20 section 216 governing stewardship or emergency response  
21 activities within the administrative boundaries of such  
22 unit.

23 “(d) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the action  
24 plans required by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Inte-  
25 rior or the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean

1 Service may consult with the Administrator and the Task  
2 Force.

3 **“SEC. 205. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**  
4 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct ac-  
6 tivities described in subsection (b) to conserve and restore  
7 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems that are consistent  
8 with—

9 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource  
10 management in Federal and State waters, including  
11 this title;

12 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy  
13 in effect as developed under section 203; and

14 “(3) Federal coral reef action plans in effect  
15 and developed under section 204.

16 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described  
17 in this subsection are activities to conserve and restore  
18 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed  
19 under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency specified in sub-  
20 section (c), including—

21 “(1) enhancing compliance with Federal laws  
22 that prohibit or regulate—

23 “(A) the taking of coral products or spe-  
24 cies associated with coral reefs; or

1                   “(B) the use and management of coral reef  
2                   ecosystems;  
3                   “(2) mapping of—  
4                   “(A) the current range and extent of coral  
5                   reef ecosystems;  
6                   “(B) the historical range and extent of  
7                   coral reef ecosystems; and  
8                   “(C) prime habitat for restoring reef eco-  
9                   system structure and functions to benefit coast-  
10                  al communities and living marine resources;  
11                  “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral  
12                  reef ecosystems;  
13                  “(4) implementing species-specific recovery  
14                  plans for listed coral species consistent with the En-  
15                  dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
16                  seq.);  
17                  “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;  
18                  “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation  
19                  and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to  
20                  promote enhanced recreational access, near coral  
21                  reefs; and  
22                  “(7) monitoring and responding to severe  
23                  bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,  
24                  invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime

1 accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the  
2 removal of grounded vessels.

3 “(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal  
4 agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

5 “(1) The National Ocean Service of the Na-  
6 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

7 “(2) The National Park Service.

8 “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
9 ice.

10 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs of the De-  
11 partment of the Interior.

12 “(d) COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
13 THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the  
14 Secretary of the Interior regarding the conduct of any ac-  
15 tivities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral reef  
16 ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of  
17 a Federal agency specified in paragraph (2), (3), or (4)  
18 of subsections (c).

19 “(e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the  
21 Secretary, the Administrator may enter into cooper-  
22 ative agreements with States to fund coral reef con-  
23 servation and restoration activities in waters man-  
24 aged under the jurisdiction of such States that are

1 consistent with the national coral reef resilience  
2 strategy in effect as developed under section 203.

3 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not  
4 provide more than \$500,000 in total funding under  
5 paragraph (1) to one State in a fiscal year.

6 **“SEC. 206. STATE CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**  
7 **TORATION STRATEGIES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
9 2022, and every 20 years thereafter, the Administrator  
10 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
11 and publish in the Federal Register a compilation of State  
12 coral reef management and restoration strategies—

13 “(1) developed and voluntarily submitted to the  
14 Administrator by covered States; and

15 “(2) that meet the requirements of subsection  
16 (b).

17 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE STRATEGIES.—A  
18 coral reef management and restoration strategy of a cov-  
19 ered State meets the requirements of this subsection if the  
20 strategy includes—

21 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives to be  
22 accomplished during the 20-year period following the  
23 development of the strategy; and

24 “(2) a discussion of—

25 “(A) updated State mapping of—

1 “(i) the current range and extent of  
2 coral reef ecosystems;

3 “(ii) the historical range and extent of  
4 coral reef ecosystems; and

5 “(iii) prime habitat for restoring reef  
6 ecosystem functions to benefit coastal com-  
7 munities and living marine resources;

8 “(B) continuing and emerging threats to  
9 the resilience of coral reef ecosystems within  
10 such State;

11 “(C) State-wide gaps in research, moni-  
12 toring, and assessment;

13 “(D) long-term State conservation and res-  
14 toration goals, including the status of efforts to  
15 improve management integration and coopera-  
16 tion among Federal, State, Tribal, and locally  
17 managed jurisdictions with coral reef equities;

18 “(E) the role of coral reef stewardship  
19 partnerships certified under section 210(e)  
20 within such State, and the role of such partner-  
21 ships in the coral reef management and restora-  
22 tion strategy of such State; and

23 “(F) efforts to manage and disseminate  
24 critical information such as publicly accessible

1 research, reports, datasets, and maps, including  
2 through interjurisdictional data sharing.

3 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request by a  
4 covered State, the Administrator shall make reasonable ef-  
5 forts to provide technical assistance in the development  
6 of the coral reef management and restoration strategy of  
7 such State under this subsection.

8 **“SEC. 207. STATE CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
10 2023, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator  
11 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
12 and publish in the Federal Register a compilation of State  
13 coral reef action plans—

14 “(1) developed and voluntarily submitted to the  
15 Administrator by covered States; and

16 “(2) that meet the requirements of subsection  
17 (b).

18 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE PLANS.—A State  
19 coral reef action plan meets the requirements of this sub-  
20 section if the plan includes—

21 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives to be  
22 accomplished during the 5-year period following de-  
23 velopment of the plan and consistent with such cov-  
24 ered State’s coral reef management and restoration

1 strategy in effect as developed in accordance with  
2 section 206, if any; and

3 “(2) a discussion of—

4 “(A) a review of the most recent State  
5 coral reef action plan assessment developed  
6 under section 208, as applicable, and how such  
7 assessment informs the newly submitted action  
8 plan;

9 “(B) short- and mid-term State coral reef  
10 conservation and restoration objectives;

11 “(C) an assessment of whether such State  
12 has experienced more than a 10 percent loss of  
13 living coral cover during the 10-year period pre-  
14 ceding the date of the plan or retains less than  
15 50 percent of its historical living coral cover as  
16 of that date;

17 “(D) an updated adaptive management  
18 framework to inform research, monitoring, and  
19 assessment needs;

20 “(E) any coral reef emergency plans cer-  
21 tified under section 216 in effect for coral reef  
22 ecosystems within such State, and a review of  
23 any circumstance that led to the activation of  
24 such plans within such State, including an eval-  
25 uation of the emergency responses;



1           “(F) tools and strategies to address pollu-  
2           tion and water quality impacts to coral reef eco-  
3           systems within such State;

4           “(G) the status of efforts to improve coral  
5           reef ecosystem management integration and co-  
6           operation among Federal, State, Tribal, or lo-  
7           cally managed jurisdictions, including identifica-  
8           tion of existing research and monitoring activi-  
9           ties that can be leveraged for coral reef status  
10          and trends assessments within such State;

11          “(H) a list of all coral reefs or ecologically  
12          significant units of coral reefs identified by  
13          coral reef stewardship partnerships certified  
14          under section 210(e) or subject to stewardship  
15          activities governed by coral reef stewardship  
16          plans certified under section 212 during the  
17          preceding 5-year period within such State;

18          “(I) coral reef-related public outreach and  
19          education efforts;

20          “(J) an accounting of such State’s annual  
21          expenditures on coral reef management and res-  
22          toration during the 5-year period preceding the  
23          date of the plan; and

1           “(K) estimated budgetary and other re-  
2           source considerations necessary to carry out  
3           such plan.

4           “(c) ADOPTION OF STEWARDSHIP AND EMERGENCY  
5 PLANS.—In developing a coral reef action plan under this  
6 section, a covered State may adopt any coral reef steward-  
7 ship plans certified under section 212 and coral reef emer-  
8 gency plans certified under section 216 governing steward-  
9 ship or emergency response activities within the adminis-  
10 trative boundaries of the State.

11          “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request by a  
12 covered State, the Administrator shall make reasonable ef-  
13 forts to provide technical assistance in the development  
14 of the State’s coral reef action plan under this section.

15 **“SEC. 208. STATE CORAL REEF ACTION PLAN ASSESS-**  
16 **MENTS.**

17          “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
18 2027, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator  
19 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
20 and publish in the Federal Register an assessment, for  
21 each covered State with an action plan developed under  
22 section 207 and in effect, of—

23               “(1) the capacity of such covered State to man-  
24               age coral reef ecosystems in the State;

1           “(2) a review of such covered State’s efforts  
2           and success in managing and restoring coral reef  
3           ecosystems under the previous coral reef action plan  
4           developed under section 207 and in effect, as appli-  
5           cable; and

6           “(3) a review of any circumstance that led to  
7           the activation of a coral reef emergency plan cer-  
8           tified under section 216 and in effect within such  
9           covered State, including an evaluation of the emer-  
10          gency responses.

11          “(b) CONSULTATIONS.—In conducting an assessment  
12          under subsection (a) with respect to a covered State, the  
13          Administrator may consult with the covered State, the  
14          Task Force, coral reef stewardship partnerships certified  
15          under section 210(e) operating within the covered State,  
16          and impacted Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

17          “(c) USE IN DEVELOPMENT OF STATE CORAL REEF  
18          ACTION PLANS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Ad-  
19          ministrator should conduct assessments under subsection  
20          (a) with the goal of informing and supporting the develop-  
21          ment of subsequent State coral reef action plans developed  
22          under section 207.

23          **“SEC. 209. STATE BLOCK GRANTS.**

24          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide  
25          block grants of financial assistance to covered States in

1 response to annual proposals for funds to support State  
2 activities that would further the implementation of State  
3 coral reef management and restoration strategies devel-  
4 oped under section 206, State coral reef action plans de-  
5 veloped under section 207, and coral reef stewardship  
6 plans certified under section 212.

7 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A covered State is eligible to re-  
8 ceive a grant under this subsection if the State has in ef-  
9 fect—

10 “(1) a State coral reef management and res-  
11 toration strategy in effect published by the Adminis-  
12 trator in the Federal Register under section 206 and  
13 a State coral reef action plan in effect published by  
14 the Administrator in the Federal Register under sec-  
15 tion 207; or

16 “(2) at least one coral reef stewardship plan  
17 certified under section 212 in effect within its ad-  
18 ministrative boundaries.

19 “(c) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

20 “(1) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in para-  
21 graph (2) or subsection (d), the amount of Federal  
22 funds provided to a covered State as a block grant  
23 under this section may not exceed the total amount  
24 of the annual expenditures of the State on the im-  
25 plementation of its State coral reef management and

1 restoration strategy under section 206, its State  
2 coral reef action plan under section 207, and its re-  
3 sponsibilities to coral reef stewardship plans certified  
4 under section 212.

5 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Any Federal funds pro-  
6 vided to a natural resource management authority of  
7 a State or other State government authority under  
8 this section or section 205, 213, 218, 219, or 221  
9 shall not be considered State expenditures for the  
10 purposes of calculating the limitation under para-  
11 graph (1).

12 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—Notwithstanding para-  
13 graph (1), in determining the amount of Federal  
14 funds a covered State receives as a block grant  
15 under this section, the Administrator may consider  
16 the following factors:

17 “(A) The quality of such State’s funding  
18 proposal under subsection (a).

19 “(B) The findings from such State’s most  
20 recent action plan assessment under section  
21 208, if applicable.

22 “(C) Estimates of direct and indirect eco-  
23 nomic activity supported by coral reef eco-  
24 systems within such State.

1       “(d) WAIVERS OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The  
2 Administrator may waive the eligibility requirements  
3 under subsection (b), in full or in part, through fiscal year  
4 2023.

5       **“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**

6       “(a) CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—  
7 The Administrator shall establish standards for the forma-  
8 tion of partnerships among government and community  
9 members for the stewardship of coral reefs (in this title  
10 referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship partnerships’) in ac-  
11 cordance with this section.

12       “(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REEFS.—Each coral reef  
13 stewardship partnership shall identify with particularity  
14 the coral reef or ecologically significant unit of a coral reef  
15 that will be the subject of its stewardship activities.

16       “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL REEFS.—A coral  
17 reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the  
18 subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-  
19 logically significant unit of a coral reef that is fully or par-  
20 tially under the management jurisdiction of any Federal  
21 agency specified in section 205(c), shall, at a minimum,  
22 include the following:

23               “(1) That Federal agency, a representative of  
24       which shall serve as chair of the coral reef steward-  
25       ship partnership.

1           “(2) A State, county, or Tribal organization’s  
2           resource management agency.

3           “(3) A coral reef research center described in  
4           section 223(c)(2) or other institution of higher edu-  
5           cation.

6           “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

7           “(5) Other members as appropriate, such as in-  
8           terested stakeholder groups.

9           “(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL REEFS.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship  
11           partnership that has identified, as the subject of its  
12           stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-  
13           nificant unit of a coral reef that is not under the  
14           management jurisdiction of any Federal agency  
15           specified in section 205(c) shall, at a minimum, in-  
16           clude the following:

17           “(A) A State, county, or Tribal organiza-  
18           tion’s resource management agency, a rep-  
19           resentative of which shall serve as the chair of  
20           the coral reef stewardship partnership.

21           “(B) A coral reef research center described  
22           in section 223(c)(2) or another institution of  
23           higher education.

24           “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

1                   “(D) Other members as appropriate, such  
2                   as interested stakeholder groups.

3                   “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—A coral reef  
4                   stewardship partnership described in paragraph (1)  
5                   may also include one or more Federal agencies that  
6                   have a management interest in the identified reef  
7                   that is subject to the partnership’s stewardship ac-  
8                   tivities.

9                   “(e) CERTIFICATION.—A group seeking recognition  
10                  as a coral reef stewardship partnership under this section  
11                  may petition the Administrator for certification as a coral  
12                  reef stewardship partnership, and the Administrator shall  
13                  accept or reject the petition for certification not later than  
14                  30 days after receiving the petition.

15                  “(f) MULTIPLE GROUPS.—

16                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each coral reef, or eco-  
17                  logically significant unit of a coral reef, may be the  
18                  subject of the stewardship activities of only one coral  
19                  reef stewardship partnership.

20                  “(2) PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—The Adminis-  
21                  trator shall develop procedures to govern the disposi-  
22                  tion of petitions from multiple groups seeking to  
23                  identify the same coral reef or ecologically signifi-  
24                  cant unit of a coral reef as the subject of the stew-



1       ardship activities of a coral reef stewardship part-  
2       nership.

3       “(g) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
4 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act  
5 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship  
6 partnerships.

7       **“SEC. 211. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PLANS.**

8       “(a) REEF STEWARDSHIP PLANS.—A coral reef  
9 stewardship partnership certified under section 210(e)  
10 may develop plans for the stewardship of the coral reef  
11 or ecologically significant unit of a coral reef that is the  
12 subject of the stewardship activities of the partnership (in  
13 this title referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship plans’).

14       “(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—A coral reef steward-  
15 ship plan shall include the following elements:

16               “(1) Tools and strategies to address pollution  
17       and water quality impacts to the identified coral reef  
18       ecosystems.

19               “(2) An updated adaptive management frame-  
20       work to inform research, monitoring, and assessment  
21       needs.

22               “(3) Short- and mid-term coral reef steward-  
23       ship objectives.

24               “(4) Coral reef-related public outreach and edu-  
25       cation efforts.

1           “(5) Establishment of roles and responsibilities  
2           for implementing the plan.

3           “(6) Evidence of engagement with interested  
4           stakeholder groups in the development of the plan.

5           “(7) Any other information the Administrator  
6           considers to be necessary for evaluating the plan.

7           “(c) BEST STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES.—The Admin-  
8           istrator shall convene representatives of coral reef stew-  
9           ardship partnerships not less than once a year to share  
10          experiences and identify best practices for developing and  
11          implementing coral reef stewardship plans.

12       **“SEC. 212. STEWARDSHIP PLAN CERTIFICATIONS.**

13          “(a) SUBMISSION TO ADMINISTRATOR FOR CERTIFI-  
14          CATION.—A coral reef stewardship partnership certified  
15          under section 210(e) may submit a coral reef stewardship  
16          plan developed under section 211 to the Administrator for  
17          certification.

18          “(b) EVALUATION.—

19               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

20                   “(A) evaluate a plan submitted under sub-  
21                   section (a) to determine whether the plan com-  
22                   plies with the requirements of section 211(b);  
23                   and

24                   “(B) grant or deny the petition for certifi-  
25                   cation not later than 120 days (except as pro-

1           vided by paragraph (2)) after receiving the peti-  
2           tion.

3           “(2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may ex-  
4           tend the date provided for under paragraph (1)(B)  
5           by not more than 60 days.

6           “(c) APPEAL.—If the Administrator denies a petition  
7           for certification submitted under subsection (a) by a coral  
8           reef stewardship partnership, the partnership may, not  
9           later than 30 days after receiving notice of the denial, ap-  
10          peal the denial to the Secretary. Not later than 60 days  
11          after receiving an appeal under this subsection, the Sec-  
12          retary shall grant or deny the appeal.

13          “(d) RECERTIFICATION.—The certification of a coral  
14          reef stewardship plan under this section shall expire on  
15          the date that is 5 years after the certification was granted.  
16          A coral reef stewardship partnership may submit an up-  
17          dated version of such a plan for recertification prior to  
18          the expiration of the certification of the plan under this  
19          section.

20       **“SEC. 213. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

21          “(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—  
22          The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the  
23          National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-  
24          ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation

1 to receive, hold, and administer funds received pursuant  
2 to this section.

3 “(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,  
4 and otherwise administer the funds received pursuant to  
5 this section and maintain such funds and any interest or  
6 revenues earned in a separate interest bearing account,  
7 to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this  
8 section referred to as the ‘Fund’), established by the  
9 Foundation solely to support coral reef stewardship part-  
10 nership activities that—

11 “(1) further the purposes of this title; and

12 “(2) are consistent with—

13 “(A) the national coral reef resilience  
14 strategy in effect as developed under section  
15 203;

16 “(B) the State coral reef management and  
17 restoration strategy in effect, if any, as devel-  
18 oped under section 206 by the covered State in  
19 which such activities will be carried out;

20 “(C) the State coral reef action plan in ef-  
21 fect, if any, as developed under section 207 by  
22 the covered State in which such activities will  
23 be carried out;

24 “(D) Federal coral reef action plans in ef-  
25 fect, if any, as developed under section 204 by

1 a Federal agency with management jurisdiction  
2 of a coral reef ecosystem to be impacted by  
3 such activities, if applicable; and

4 “(E) the coral reef stewardship plan in ef-  
5 fect as certified under section 212 governing  
6 such stewardship activities.

7 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement  
9 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation  
10 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use  
11 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of  
12 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)  
13 to further the purposes of this title.

14 “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding  
15 section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any  
16 funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-  
17 tained in the Fund.

18 “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than  
19 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under  
20 paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-  
21 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
22 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
23 resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

24 “(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Adminis-  
25 trator shall conduct a continuing review of the grant pro-

1 gram administered by the Foundation under this section.  
2 Each review shall include a written assessment concerning  
3 the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the  
4 goals and requirements of—

5 “(1) this section; and

6 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy  
7 in effect as developed under section 203.

8 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-  
9 tered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator  
10 may transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to  
11 the Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation  
12 under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole  
13 or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or  
14 property) made to the Foundation by private persons,  
15 State or local government agencies, or Tribal organiza-  
16 tions.

17 **“SEC. 214. CORAL REEFS AS MAINTAINED OR ENGINEERED**  
18 **INFRASTRUCTURE.**

19 “(a) CORAL REEFS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF  
20 CERTIFIED CORAL REEF PLANS.—Any coral reef or eco-  
21 logically significant unit of a coral reef that is the subject  
22 of stewardship activities of a coral reef stewardship part-  
23 nership plan in effect as certified under section 212 or  
24 a coral reef emergency plan in effect as certified under  
25 section 216 shall be eligible for public assistance under

1 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
2 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

3 “(b) OTHER CORAL REEFS.—Any coral reef or eco-  
4 logically significant unit of a coral reef not described in  
5 subsection (a) may be considered eligible for public assist-  
6 ance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
7 Emergency Assistance Act.

8 **“SEC. 215. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Individual management units of  
10 Federal agencies specified in section 205(c) with jurisdic-  
11 tion over coral reef ecosystems, covered States, and coral  
12 reef stewardship partnerships certified under section  
13 210(e) may develop plans (in this title referred to as ‘coral  
14 reef emergency plans’) for the rapid and effective response  
15 to circumstances that pose an urgent and immediate  
16 threat to the coral reef ecosystems subject to the steward-  
17 ship activities of such management unit, covered State, or  
18 coral reef stewardship partnership.

19 “(b) CORAL REEF EMERGENCIES.—The Adminis-  
20 trator shall develop a list and criteria for circumstances  
21 that pose an urgent and immediate threat to coral reefs  
22 (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef emergencies’), in-  
23 cluding—

24 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

1           “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive spe-  
2       cies;

3           “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

4           “(4) natural disasters;

5           “(5) man-made disasters, including vessel  
6       groundings, chemical spills, or coastal construction  
7       accidents; and

8           “(6) other exigent circumstances.

9       “(c) BEST RESPONSE PRACTICES.—The Adminis-  
10     trator shall develop guidance on best practices to respond  
11     to coral reef emergencies. Such best practices shall be—

12           “(1) based on the best available science and in-  
13       tegrated with evolving innovative technologies; and

14           “(2) updated not less frequently than once  
15       every 5 years.

16       “(d) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—A coral reef emergency  
17     plan shall include the following elements:

18           “(1) A description of particular threats, and the  
19       proposed responses, consistent with the best prac-  
20       tices developed under subsection (c).

21           “(2) A delineation of roles and responsibilities  
22       for executing such plan.

23           “(3) Evidence of engagement with interested  
24       stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the develop-  
25       ment of such plan.



1           “(4) Any other information the Administrator  
2           considers to be necessary for evaluating such plan.

3   **“SEC. 216. EMERGENCY PLAN CERTIFICATIONS.**

4           “(a) SUBMISSION TO ADMINISTRATOR FOR CERTIFI-  
5   CATION.—Federal agencies specified in subsection 205(c),  
6   covered States, and coral reef stewardship partnerships  
7   certified under section 210(e) may submit coral reef emer-  
8   gency plans developed under section 215 to the Adminis-  
9   trator for certification.

10          “(b) EVALUATION.—

11           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

12           “(A) evaluate a plan submitted under sub-  
13           section (a) to determine whether the plan com-  
14           plies with the requirements of section 215(d);  
15           and

16           “(B) grant or deny the petition for certifi-  
17           cation not later than 120 days (except as pro-  
18           vided by paragraph (2)) after receiving the peti-  
19           tion.

20           “(2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may ex-  
21           tend the date provided for under paragraph (1)(B)  
22           by not more than 60 days.

23           “(c) APPEAL.—If the Administrator denies a petition  
24           for certification submitted under subsection (a), the peti-  
25           tioning entity may, not later than 30 days after receiving

1 notice of the denial, appeal the denial to the Secretary.  
2 Not later than 60 days after receiving an appeal under  
3 this subsection, the Secretary shall grant or deny the ap-  
4 peal.

5 “(d) RECERTIFICATION.—The certification of a coral  
6 reef emergency plan under this section shall expire on the  
7 date that is 5 years after the certification was granted.  
8 The petitioning entity may submit an updated version of  
9 such a plan for recertification prior to the expiration of  
10 the certification of the plan under this section.

11 **“SEC. 217. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

12 “(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
13 may be construed to supersede or modify the requirements  
14 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
15 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

16 “(b) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.—To the ex-  
17 tent permissible under the National Environmental Policy  
18 Act of 1969, the Administrator may conduct an environ-  
19 mental assessment or environmental impact statement  
20 under that Act with respect to coral reef emergency plans  
21 developed under section 215 or certified under section  
22 216.

23 “(c) GUIDANCE AND OUTREACH.—The Adminis-  
24 trator shall issue guidance and conduct outreach with re-  
25 spect to the implementation of this section.

1   **“SEC. 218. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY FUND.**

2       “(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—

3   The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the  
4   National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-  
5   ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation  
6   to receive, hold, and administer funds received pursuant  
7   to this section.

8       “(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,  
9   and otherwise administer funds received pursuant to this  
10   section and maintain such funds and any interest or reve-  
11   nues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be  
12   known as the ‘Coral Reef Emergency Fund’ (in this sec-  
13   tion referred as the ‘Fund’), established by the Founda-  
14   tion solely to support rapid and effective responses to coral  
15   reef emergencies by Federal agencies specified in sub-  
16   section 205(c), covered States, and coral reef stewardship  
17   partnerships certified under section 210(e), and as other-  
18   wise consistent with this title.

19       “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

20           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement  
21   entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation  
22   may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use  
23   any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of  
24   title 31, United States Code, donations of services)  
25   to further the purposes of this title.

1           “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding  
2       section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any  
3       funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-  
4       tained in the Fund.

5           “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than  
6       30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under  
7       paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-  
8       mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
9       Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
10      resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

11       “(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Adminis-  
12      trator shall conduct a continuing review of the grant pro-  
13      gram administered by the Foundation under this section.  
14      Each review shall include a written assessment concerning  
15      the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the  
16      goals and requirements of this section.

17       “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-  
18      tered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator  
19      may transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to  
20      the Foundation. Amounts received by an organization  
21      under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole  
22      or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or  
23      property) made to the organization by private persons,  
24      State or local government agencies, or Tribal organiza-  
25      tions.

1 **“SEC. 219. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

2 “(a) CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—

3 “(1) SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.—The Sec-  
4 retary may determine and declare a coral reef emer-  
5 gency.

6 “(2) PETITIONS.—If a State or a coral reef  
7 stewardship partnership certified under section  
8 210(e) believes that a coral reef emergency has oc-  
9 curred, and is impacting coral reefs or ecologically  
10 significant units of coral reefs subject to the coral  
11 reef stewardship activities of the State or partner-  
12 ship, the State or partnership may petition the Sec-  
13 retary for a declaration of a coral reef emergency.

14 “(3) EVALUATION AND ACTION.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30  
16 days after receiving a petition under paragraph  
17 (2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B)),  
18 the Secretary shall—

19 “(i) evaluate the petition to determine  
20 whether a coral reef emergency has oc-  
21 curred; and

22 “(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or  
23 deny the petition.

24 “(B) EXTENSION.—The Administrator  
25 may extend the deadline provided for under  
26 subparagraph (A) by not more than 15 days.

1           “(4) APPEAL.—If the Secretary denies a peti-  
2           tion for an emergency declaration submitted under  
3           paragraph (2) by a State or coral reef stewardship  
4           partnership, the State or partnership may, not later  
5           than 15 days after receiving notice of the denial, ap-  
6           peal the denial to the Secretary. Not later than 15  
7           days after receiving an appeal under this paragraph,  
8           the Secretary shall grant or deny the appeal.

9           “(5) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may revoke  
10          any declaration of a coral reef emergency in whole  
11          or in part after determining that circumstances no  
12          longer require an emergency response.

13          “(6) RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.—  
14          The Administrator may seek compensation from  
15          negligent parties to recover emergency funds ex-  
16          pended in excess of \$500,000 under this section as  
17          a result of an emergency declaration arising from di-  
18          rect impacts to coral reefs from man-made disasters  
19          or accidents.

20          “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—

21                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of a  
22                 coral reef emergency under subsection (a), the Sec-  
23                 retary shall provide grants to carry out proposals  
24                 that meet the requirements of paragraph (2) to im-

1       plement coral reef emergency plans certified under  
2       section 216.

3               “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A proposal for a grant  
4       under this subsection to implement a coral reef  
5       emergency plan shall include—

6               “(A) the name of the individual or entity  
7       submitting the proposal;

8               “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency  
9       plan;

10              “(C) a description of the qualifications of  
11       the individuals and entities who will implement  
12       the plan;

13              “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-  
14       quired to complete the implementation of the  
15       plan; and

16              “(E) any other information the Secretary  
17       considers to be necessary for evaluating the eli-  
18       gibility of the proposal for a grant under this  
19       subsection.

20              “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after re-  
21       ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection,  
22       the Secretary shall review the proposal and deter-  
23       mine if the proposal meets the criteria requirements  
24       of paragraph (2).

1           “(4) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—An individual or  
2           entity seek a grant under this subsection may sub-  
3           mit a project proposal under paragraph (2) to the  
4           Secretary at any time following the submission of a  
5           petition for an emergency declaration under sub-  
6           section (a)(2) that is applicable to coral reefs or eco-  
7           logically significant units of coral reefs subject to the  
8           coral reef stewardship activities of the individual or  
9           entity.

10   **“SEC. 220. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

11           “The Administrator, in coordination with the heads  
12           of other Federal agencies, may maintain an inventory of  
13           all vessel grounding incidents involving United States  
14           coral reefs, including a description of—

15                   “(1) the impacts of each such incident;

16                   “(2) vessel and ownership information relating  
17           to each such incident, if available;

18                   “(3) the estimated cost of removal, mitigation,  
19           or restoration relating to each such incident;

20                   “(4) the response actions taken by the owner of  
21           the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of  
22           the Coast Guard, or other Federal or State agency  
23           representatives;

24                   “(5) the status of the response actions, includ-  
25           ing the dates of—



1 “(A) vessel removal;

2 “(B) mitigation or restoration activities,  
3 including whether an applicable coral reef emer-  
4 gency plan as certified under section 216 was  
5 implemented; and

6 “(C) any actions taken to prevent future  
7 grounding incidents; and

8 “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-  
9 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-  
10 ture grounding incidents.

11 **“SEC. 221. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

12 “(a) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall provide  
13 grants of financial assistance for projects for the conserva-  
14 tion and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in this sec-  
15 tion referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) for proposals ap-  
16 proved by the Administrator in accordance with this sec-  
17 tion.

18 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity described in  
20 paragraph (2) may submit to the Administrator a  
21 proposal for a coral reef project.

22 “(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity de-  
23 scribed in this paragraph is—

1           “(A) a natural resource management au-  
2           thority of a State or local government or Tribal  
3           organization—

4                   “(i) with responsibility for coral reef  
5           management; or

6                   “(ii) the activities of which directly or  
7           indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef  
8           ecosystems;

9           “(B) a coral reef stewardship partnership  
10          certified under section 210(e) seeking to imple-  
11          ment a coral reef stewardship plan certified  
12          under section 212;

13          “(C) a coral reef research center des-  
14          ignated under section 223(c)(2); or

15          “(D) another educational or nongovern-  
16          mental research institution with demonstrated  
17          expertise in the conservation or restoration of  
18          coral reefs in practice or through significant  
19          contributions to the body of existing scientific  
20          research on coral reefs.

21          “(c) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for a  
22          grant under this section for a coral reef project shall in-  
23          clude the following:

24                   “(1) The name of the individual or entity re-  
25          sponsible for conducting the project.

1           “(2) A description of the qualifications of the  
2 individual or entity.

3           “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of  
4 the project.

5           “(4) An estimate of the funds and time re-  
6 quired to complete the project.

7           “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-  
8 propriate representatives of States or other govern-  
9 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-  
10 ducted.

11           “(6) Information regarding the source and  
12 amount of matching funding available to the appli-  
13 cant.

14           “(7) A description of how the project meets one  
15 or more of the criteria under subsection (e)(2).

16           “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a  
17 coral reef stewardship partnership certified under  
18 section 210(e), a description of how the project  
19 aligns with the coral reef stewardship plan in effect  
20 as certified under section 212.

21           “(9) Any other information the Administrator  
22 considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-  
23 bility of the project for a grant under this sub-  
24 section.

25           “(d) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-  
2       view each coral reef project proposal submitted  
3       under this section to determine if the project meets  
4       the criteria set forth in subsection (e).

5           “(2)     PRIORITIZATION     OF     RESTORATION  
6       PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the  
7       awarding of grants for applicable projects that meet  
8       the criteria for approval under subparagraphs (F),  
9       (G), (H), (I), (J), and (K) of subsection (e)(2) that  
10      are proposed to be conducted within the administra-  
11      tive boundaries of—

12           “(A) an individual management unit of a  
13      Federal agency specified in section 205(c); or

14           “(B) a covered State that—

15           “(i) has experienced more than a 10  
16      percent loss of living coral cover during the  
17      10-year period preceding the date of the  
18      plan as determined by the applicable Fed-  
19      eral coral reef action plan in effect as de-  
20      veloped under section 204; or

21           “(ii) retains less than 50 percent of  
22      its historical living coral cover as of that  
23      date, as determined by the State coral reef  
24      action plan in effect as developed under  
25      section 208.

1           “(3) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—  
2       Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal  
3       for a coral reef project under this section, the Ad-  
4       ministrator shall—

5           “(A) request and consider written com-  
6       ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-  
7       cy, State government, Tribal organization, or  
8       other government jurisdiction, including the rel-  
9       evant regional fishery management councils es-  
10      tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
11      Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
12      1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-  
13      tuary, with jurisdiction or management author-  
14      ity over coral reef ecosystems in the area where  
15      the project is to be conducted, including the ex-  
16      tent to which the project is consistent with lo-  
17      cally established priorities, unless such entities  
18      were directly involved in the development of the  
19      project proposal;

20           “(B) provide for the merit-based peer re-  
21      view of the proposal and require standardized  
22      documentation of that peer review;

23           “(C) after considering any written com-  
24      ments and recommendations based on the re-

1 views under subparagraphs (A) and (B), ap-  
2 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

3 “(D) provide written notification of that  
4 approval or disapproval, with summaries of all  
5 written comments, recommendations, and peer-  
6 reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-  
7 posal, and each of those States, Tribal organi-  
8 zations, and other government jurisdictions that  
9 provided comments under subparagraph (A).

10 “(e) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Administrator  
11 may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under  
12 this section unless the project—

13 “(1) is consistent with—

14 “(A) the national coral reef resilience  
15 strategy in effect as developed under section  
16 203;

17 “(B) the State coral reef management and  
18 restoration strategy in effect, if any, as devel-  
19 oped under section 206 by the covered State in  
20 which the project will be carried out;

21 “(C) the State coral reef action plan in ef-  
22 fect, if any, as developed under section 207 by  
23 such State;

24 “(D) Federal coral reef action plans in ef-  
25 fect, if any, as developed under section 204 by

1 a Federal agency with management jurisdiction  
2 of a coral reef ecosystem to be impacted by  
3 such project, if applicable; and

4 “(E) coral reef stewardship plans in effect,  
5 if any, as certified under section 212 governing  
6 the stewardship activities at a coral reef or eco-  
7 logically significant unit of a coral reef to be  
8 impacted by such project, if applicable; and

9 “(2) will enhance the conservation and restora-  
10 tion of coral reefs by—

11 “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the  
12 use of environments near coral reefs or from  
13 the use of corals, species associated with coral  
14 reefs, and coral products, including supporting  
15 consensus-driven, community-based planning  
16 and management initiatives for the protection  
17 of coral reef ecosystems;

18 “(B) improving compliance with laws that  
19 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products  
20 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate  
21 the use and management of coral reef eco-  
22 systems;

23 “(C) designing and implementing networks  
24 of real-time water quality monitoring along  
25 coral reefs, including data collection related to

1 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal  
2 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-  
3 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture  
4 and urban development;

5 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-  
6 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy  
7 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-  
8 cess, near coral reefs;

9 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of  
10 coral reef stewardship plans certified under sec-  
11 tion 212 and coral reef emergency plans cer-  
12 tified under section 216;

13 “(F) mapping the location and distribution  
14 of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;

15 “(G) implementing research to ensure the  
16 population viability of listed coral species in  
17 United States waters as detailed in the popu-  
18 lation-based recovery criteria included in spe-  
19 cies-specific recovery plans consistent with the  
20 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
21 1531 et seq.);

22 “(H) developing and implementing cost-ef-  
23 fective methods to restore degraded coral reef  
24 ecosystems or to create native coral reef eco-  
25 systems in suitable waters, including by improv-



1 ing habitat or promoting success of keystone  
2 species, with an emphasis on novel restoration  
3 strategies and techniques to advance coral reef  
4 recovery and growth near population centers  
5 threatened by rising sea levels and storm surge;

6 “(I) translating and applying coral genet-  
7 ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,  
8 including research related to traits that pro-  
9 mote resilience to increasing ocean tempera-  
10 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral  
11 diseases, and invasive species;

12 “(J) developing and maintaining in situ  
13 native coral propagation sites; or

14 “(K) developing and maintaining ex situ  
15 coral propagation nurseries and land-based  
16 coral gene banks to—

17 “(i) conserve or augment genetic di-  
18 versity of native coral populations;

19 “(ii) support captive breeding of rare  
20 coral species; or

21 “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral  
22 populations to increasing ocean tempera-  
23 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,  
24 and coral diseases through selective breed-  
25 ing, conditioning, or other approaches that

1 target genes, gene expression, phenotypic  
2 traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

3 “(f) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(1) FIFTY PERCENT MATCH.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by  
6 subparagraph (C), Federal funds for any coral  
7 reef project under this section may not exceed  
8 50 percent of the total cost of the project. For  
9 purposes of this paragraph, the non-Federal  
10 share of project costs may be provided by in-  
11 kind contributions and other noncash support.

12 “(B) WAIVER.—The Administrator may  
13 waive all or part of the matching requirement  
14 under subparagraph (A) with respect to a coral  
15 reef project if the Administrator determines  
16 that—

17 “(i) no reasonable means are available  
18 through which the entity that submitted  
19 the proposal for the project can meet the  
20 matching requirement; and

21 “(ii) the probable benefit of the  
22 project outweighs the public interest in the  
23 matching requirement.

1           “(C) EXCLUSION.—Funds provided under  
2           section 209 may not be used to satisfy the  
3           matching requirement under subparagraph (A).

4           “(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—To the extent  
5           practicable based upon proposals for coral reef  
6           projects submitted to the Administrator, the Admin-  
7           istrator shall ensure that funding for grants award-  
8           ed under this section during a fiscal year is distrib-  
9           uted as follows:

10           “(A) Not less than 40 percent of funds  
11           available shall be awarded for projects in the  
12           Pacific Ocean within the maritime areas and  
13           zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of  
14           the United States.

15           “(B) Not less than 40 percent of the funds  
16           available shall be awarded for projects in the  
17           Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Car-  
18           ibbean Sea within the maritime areas and zones  
19           subject to the jurisdiction or control of the  
20           United States.

21           “(C) Not more than 67 percent of funds  
22           distributed in each region in accordance with  
23           subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be made ex-  
24           clusively available to projects that are—

1 “(i) submitted by a coral reef steward-  
2 ship partnership certified under section  
3 210(e); and

4 “(ii) consistent with the coral reef  
5 stewardship plan developed by such part-  
6 nership as certified under section 212.

7 “(D) Of the funds distributed to support  
8 projects in accordance with subparagraph (C),  
9 not less than 20 percent and not more than 33  
10 percent shall be awarded for projects impacting  
11 coral reef ecosystems within the administrative  
12 boundaries of individual management units of  
13 the Federal agencies specified in section 205(c).

14 “(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a  
15 grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator  
16 such reports at such times and containing such informa-  
17 tion for evaluating project performance as the Adminis-  
18 trator may require.

19 “(h) TASK FORCE.—The Administrator may consult  
20 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to  
21 obtain guidance in establishing priorities for coral reef  
22 projects under this section.

23 **“SEC. 222. ANNUAL REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annu-  
25 ally, the Administrator shall submit to the committees

1 specified in subsection (b) a report on the administration  
2 of this title, including—

3 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken in  
4 the previous fiscal year to implement the most re-  
5 cent national coral reef resilience strategy under sec-  
6 tion 203(a);

7 “(2) a statement of all funds obligated under  
8 the authorities of this title; and

9 “(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of  
10 Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the  
11 costs of each project or activity funded under section  
12 205, 209, 213, 218, 219, 221, or 223.

13 “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees  
14 specified in this subsection are—

15 “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
16 Transportation and the Committee on Appropria-  
17 tions of the Senate; and

18 “(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and  
19 the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
20 Representatives.

21 **“SEC. 223. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may enter  
23 into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooper-  
24 ative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the  
25 purposes of this title.

1 “(b) FUNDING.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement en-  
3 tered into under subsection (a), the Secretary may  
4 reimburse or provide funds authorized to be appro-  
5 priated by section 224 to, and may receive funds or  
6 reimbursements from, individuals and entities de-  
7 scribed in paragraph (2) to carry out activities au-  
8 thorized by this title.

9 “(2) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DE-  
10 SCRIBED.—Individuals and entities described in this  
11 paragraph are the following:

12 “(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities,  
13 and laboratories.

14 “(B) State and local governments.

15 “(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-  
16 tions.

17 “(D) International organizations.

18 “(E) Foreign governments not subject to  
19 economic sanctions imposed by the United  
20 States.

21 “(F) Institutions of higher education, re-  
22 search centers, and other educational institu-  
23 tions.

24 “(G) Nonprofit organizations.

25 “(H) Commercial organizations.

1                   “(I) Other public or private individuals or  
2                   entities.

3                   “(c) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—

4                   “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
5                   tablish 2 cooperative institutes for the purpose of  
6                   advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in  
7                   coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic  
8                   Coral Reef Cooperative Institute’ and the ‘Pacific  
9                   Coral Reef Cooperative Institute’.

10                  “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The institutes established  
11                  under paragraph (1) shall each include at least one  
12                  coral reef research center designated by the Admin-  
13                  istrator that—

14                         “(A) is operated by an institution of higher  
15                         education or nonprofit marine research organi-  
16                         zation;

17                         “(B) has established management-driven  
18                         national or regional coral reef research or res-  
19                         toration programs;

20                         “(C) is located in a covered State that con-  
21                         tains a coral reef ecosystem;

22                         “(D) has demonstrated abilities to coordi-  
23                         nate closely with appropriate Federal and State  
24                         agencies, as well as other academic and non-  
25                         profit organizations; and

1           “(E) maintains significant local community  
2           engagement and outreach programs related to  
3           coral reef ecosystems.

4           “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The institutes established  
5           under paragraph (1) shall—

6           “(A) support ecological research and moni-  
7           toring to study the effects of conservation and  
8           restoration activities funded by this title on pro-  
9           moting more effective coral reef management  
10          and restoration; and

11          “(B) through agreements with centers re-  
12          ferred to in paragraph (2)—

13               “(i) collaborate directly with govern-  
14               mental resource management agencies,  
15               coral reef stewardship partnerships cer-  
16               tified under section 210(e), nonprofit orga-  
17               nizations, institutions of higher education,  
18               and other research organizations;

19               “(ii) assist in the development and im-  
20               plementation of State coral reef manage-  
21               ment and restoration strategies developed  
22               under section 206, State coral reef action  
23               plans developed under section 207, State  
24               coral reef action plan assessments devel-  
25               oped under section 208, coral reef steward-



1 ship plans developed under section 211 or  
2 certified under section 212, and coral reef  
3 emergency plans developed under section  
4 215 or certified under section 216;

5 “(iii) build capacity within govern-  
6 mental resource management agencies to  
7 establish research priorities and translate  
8 and apply research findings to manage-  
9 ment and restoration practices; and

10 “(iv) conduct public education and  
11 awareness programs for policymakers, re-  
12 source managers, and the general public  
13 on—

14 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef  
15 ecosystems;

16 “(II) best practices for coral reef  
17 ecosystem management and restora-  
18 tion;

19 “(III) the value of coral reefs;  
20 and

21 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-  
22 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

23 “(d) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The  
24 Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agree-  
25 ments with the heads of other Federal agencies, States,

1 Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, local governments,  
2 the coral reef cooperative institutes established under sub-  
3 section (c), and other institutions of higher education,  
4 nonprofit research organizations, and nongovernmental  
5 organizations to carry out activities authorized under sec-  
6 tions 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 213, 218, 219, 220,  
7 and 221.

8 “(e) USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—  
9 The Administrator may use, with consent and with or  
10 without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-  
11 sonnel, and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—

12 “(1) the United States;

13 “(2) any State or local government;

14 “(3) any Indian Tribe; or

15 “(4) any foreign government not subject to eco-  
16 nomic sanctions imposed by the United States.

17 **“SEC. 224. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
19 propriated to the Secretary to carry out this title the fol-  
20 lowing amounts, which shall remain available until ex-  
21 pended:

22 “(1) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

23 “(2) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.

24 “(3) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

25 “(4) \$33,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.

1           “(5) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

2           “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appro-  
3 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations  
4 under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of  
5 \$1,500,000 or 10 percent may be used for program ad-  
6 ministration or for overhead costs incurred by the Na-  
7 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the De-  
8 partment of Commerce and assessed as an administrative  
9 charge.

10          “(c) CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION  
11 ACTIVITIES.—From the amounts authorized to be appro-  
12 priated under subsection (a), there shall be made available  
13 to the Secretary not less than the following amounts for  
14 authorized activities under sections 205 and 209:

15           “(1) \$21,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, of which  
16 not less than \$6,000,000 shall be made available to  
17 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
18 under section 209.

19           “(2) \$22,500,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which  
20 not less than \$6,750,000 shall be made available to  
21 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
22 under section 209.

23           “(3) \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, of which  
24 not less than \$7,500,000 shall be made available to

1 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
2 under section 209.

3 “(4) \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which  
4 not less than \$8,250,000 shall be made available to  
5 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
6 under section 209.

7 “(5) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which  
8 not less than \$9,000,000 shall be made available to  
9 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
10 under section 209.

11 “(d) FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL  
12 REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the  
13 amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection  
14 (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less  
15 than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through  
16 2024 to support purposes consistent with this title, of  
17 which—

18 “(1) not less than \$3,500,000 shall be made  
19 available for each such fiscal year for authorized ac-  
20 tivities under section 221; and

21 “(2) not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made  
22 available for each such fiscal year through coopera-  
23 tive agreements with the cooperative institutes es-  
24 tablished under section 223(c).

1   **“SEC. 225. DEFINITIONS.**

2       “In this title:

3           “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-  
4       trator’ means the Administrator of the National  
5       Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

6           “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
7       TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
8       mittees’ means the Committee on Commerce,  
9       Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
10      Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
11      Representatives.

12          “(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’  
13      means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
14      to preserve or sustain native corals and associated  
15      species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral  
16      reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive  
17      species, including—

18           “(A) all activities associated with resource  
19           management, such as monitoring, assessment,  
20           protection, restoration, sustainable use, man-  
21           agement of habitat, and maintenance or aug-  
22           mentation of genetic diversity;

23           “(B) mapping;

24           “(C) scientific expertise and technical as-  
25           sistance in the development and implementation  
26           of management strategies for marine protected

1 areas and marine resources consistent with the  
2 National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.  
3 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-  
4 ery Conservation and Management Act (16  
5 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

6 “(D) law enforcement;

7 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

8 “(F) community outreach and education;

9 and

10 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically  
11 sound navigation and anchoring.

12 “(4) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species  
13 of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

14 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia  
15 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),  
16 Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera  
17 (organpipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft  
18 corals), and Coenothecalia (blue coral), of the  
19 class Anthozoa; and

20 “(B) all species of the order  
21 Hydrocorallina (fire corals and hydrocorals) of  
22 the class Hydrozoa.

23 “(5) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’  
24 means a limestone relief feature, in the form of a  
25 reef or shoal, composed in whole or in part by living

1 coral, skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline  
2 algae, and other associated sessile marine plants and  
3 animals.

4 “(6) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term  
5 ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means—

6 “(A) corals and the associated community  
7 of other species of reef organisms (including  
8 reef plants and animals) associated with coral  
9 reef habitat; and

10 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and  
11 processes that control coral growth, reproduc-  
12 tion, and abundance and diversity in such habi-  
13 tat.

14 “(7) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-  
15 ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or  
16 derivatives, or any product containing specimens,  
17 parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in  
18 paragraph (4).

19 “(8) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered  
20 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana  
21 Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or  
22 the United States Virgin Islands.

23 “(9) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—  
24 The terms ‘Indian Tribe’ and ‘Tribal organization’  
25 have the meanings given the terms ‘Indian tribe’ and

1 ‘tribal organization’, respectively, in section 4 of the  
2 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
3 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

4 “(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
5 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
6 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-  
7 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

8 “(11) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—  
9 The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes  
10 community members such as businesses, commercial  
11 and recreational fishermen, other recreationalists,  
12 Federal, State, Tribal, and local government units  
13 with related jurisdiction, institutions of higher edu-  
14 cation, and nongovernmental organizations.

15 “(12) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
16 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that  
17 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-  
18 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-  
19 tion 501(a) of such Code.

20 “(13) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’  
21 means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
22 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-  
23 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole  
24 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical  
25 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-



1       logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-  
2       ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit  
3       native populations of coral reef organisms.

4           “(14) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’  
5       means the capacity for native corals, coral reefs, or  
6       coral reef ecosystems to recover from natural and  
7       human disturbance as determined by clearly identifi-  
8       able, measurable, and science-based standards.

9           “(15) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’  
10      means the Secretary of Commerce.

11          “(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

12               “(A) any State of the United States that  
13               contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-  
14               ward boundaries;

15               “(B) American Samoa, Guam, the North-  
16               ern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin  
17               Islands; or

18               “(C) any other territory or possession of  
19               the United States or separate sovereign in free  
20               association with the United States that contains  
21               a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward  
22               boundaries.

23          “(17) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’,  
24      with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation  
25      and restoration.

1           “(18) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’  
2       means the United States Coral Reef Task Force es-  
3       tablished under section 201 of the Restoring Resil-  
4       ient Reefs Act of 2019.”.

5           **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**  
6           **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

7       **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8           There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,  
9       and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-  
10      serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be  
11      known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in  
12      this title referred to as the “Task Force”).

13      **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

14      The duties of the Task Force shall be—

15           (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,  
16      Tribal, and local government partners, academic  
17      partners, and nongovernmental partners if appro-  
18      priate, activities regarding the mapping, monitoring,  
19      research, conservation, mitigation, restoration of  
20      coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

21           (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-  
22      tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-  
23      ities set forth in—

24           (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.  
25      32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

1 (B) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
2 egy developed under section 203(a) of the Coral  
3 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by  
4 section 101;

5 (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the  
6 Administrator of the United States Agency for  
7 International Development, and in coordination with  
8 the other members of the Task Force—

9 (A) to assess the United States role in  
10 international trade and protection of coral spe-  
11 cies; and

12 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-  
13 priate strategies and actions to promote con-  
14 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-  
15 sources worldwide;

16 (4) to provide technical assistance for the devel-  
17 opment and implementation, as appropriate, of—

18 (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
19 egy under section 203 of the Coral Reef Con-  
20 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section  
21 101;

22 (B) State coral reef management and res-  
23 toration strategies under section 206 of that  
24 Act;

1 (C) State coral reef action plans under sec-  
2 tion 207 of that Act; and

3 (D) State coral reef action plan assess-  
4 ments under section 208 of that Act; and

5 (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-  
6 sion to the appropriate congressional committees  
7 and publication in the Federal Register, highlighting  
8 the status of one State member's coral reef equities  
9 on a rotating basis, including—

10 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-  
11 agement and restoration activities undertaken  
12 in the State; and

13 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-  
14 direct economic activity supported by, and other  
15 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-  
16 ties.

17 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

18 (a) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall  
19 have the following voting members:

20 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through  
21 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
22 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the  
23 Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

24 (2) The Administrator of the United States  
25 Agency for International Development.

1 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

2 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

3 (5) The Secretary of the Army, acting through  
4 the Chief of Engineers.

5 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting  
6 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
7 gency Management Agency.

8 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard

9 (8) The Attorney General.

10 (9) The Secretary of State.

11 (10) The Secretary of Transportation.

12 (11) The Administrator of the Environmental  
13 Protection Agency.

14 (12) The Administrator of the National Aero-  
15 nautics and Space Administration.

16 (13) The Director of the National Science  
17 Foundation.

18 (14) The Governor, or a representative of the  
19 Governor, of each covered State.

20 (b) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall  
21 have the following nonvoting members:

22 (1) The member of the South Atlantic Fishery  
23 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-  
24 ernor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Mag-

1       nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
2       ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).

3           (2) The member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
4       Management Council who is designated by the Gov-  
5       ernor of Florida under such section.

6           (3) The members of the Western Pacific Fish-  
7       ery Management Council who are designated by the  
8       Governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and  
9       the Northern Mariana Islands under such section.

10          (4) The members of the Caribbean Fishery  
11       Management Council who are designated by the  
12       Governors of Puerto Rico and the United States Vir-  
13       gin Islands under such section.

14          (5) A member appointed by the President rep-  
15       resenting each of the following:

16                (A) The Freely Associated States of the  
17       Federated States of Micronesia.

18                (B) The Republic of the Marshall Islands.

19                (C) The Republic of Palau.

20   **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**  
21       **BERS.**

22       (a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force  
23       specified paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)  
24       shall—

1           (1) identify the actions of the agency that mem-  
2       ber represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

3           (2) utilize the programs and authorities of that  
4       agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such  
5       ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic  
6       and applied scientific research;

7           (3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-  
8       priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-  
9       servation and restoration activities in all agency  
10      budget planning and justification documents and  
11      processes; and

12          (4) engage in any other coordinated efforts ap-  
13      proved by the Task Force.

14      (b) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their responsibilities  
15   under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall  
16   administer performance of the functions of the Task Force  
17   and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task  
18   Force specified paragraphs (1) through (13) of section  
19   203(a).

20   **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

21      (a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Task Force  
22   may establish working groups as necessary to meet the  
23   goals and carry out the duties of the Task Force.

1 (b) REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.—The members of  
2 the Task Force may request the co-chairs to establish a  
3 working group under subsection (a).

4 (c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-  
5 ZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental or-  
6 ganizations, including academic institutions, conservation  
7 groups, and commercial and recreational fishing associa-  
8 tions, to participate in a working group established under  
9 subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this title:

12 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
14 mittees” means the Committee on Commerce,  
15 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
16 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
17 Representatives.

18 (2) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,  
19 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral  
20 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “res-  
21 toration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the mean-  
22 ing given those terms in section 225 of the Coral  
23 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-  
24 tion 101.



1 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
2 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**  
3 **THORITIES**

4 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**  
5 **ASSISTANCE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
7 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance and,  
8 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-  
9 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs  
10 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource  
11 management in Federal and State waters, including—

12 (1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in  
13 effect and developed under section 203 of the Coral  
14 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-  
15 tion 101; and

16 (2) Federal coral reef action plans in effect and  
17 developed under section 204 of that Act.

18 (b) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
19 COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult  
20 with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of  
21 any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral  
22 reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction  
23 of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2), (3),  
24 and (4) of section 205(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation  
25 Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

1       (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of  
2 the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with  
3 States to fund coral reef conservation and restoration ac-  
4 tivities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such  
5 States that are consistent with the national coral reef re-  
6 silience strategy in effect and developed under section 203  
7 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended  
8 by section 101, and support and enhance the success of  
9 Federal coral reef action plans in effect and developed  
10 under section 204 of that Act.

11       (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, terms “conserva-  
12 tion”, “coral reef”, “restoration”, and “State” have the  
13 meaning given those terms in section 225 of the Coral  
14 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section  
15 101.